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making and the public interest is whetted with expectation for the other divisions of these contributions in the hope that they may be no less successful. Apart from what might be the wiser division of the space allotted to subjects, the plan and methods of treatment of the *History of Domestic and Foreign Commerce of the United States* should be helpful in making the volumes that are to follow.

JOHN FRANKLIN CROWELL.

History of Manufactures in the United States, 1607-1860. By VICTOR S. CLARK. [Contributions to American Economic History from the Department of Economics and Sociology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.] (Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington. 1916. Pp. xii, 675.)

THE volume under review may safely be proclaimed one of the most important and valuable contributions to the economic history of the United States which has appeared in recent years. It also affords a most promising augury of what the resources of the Carnegie Institution, combined with scholarship, may hope to accomplish in this large field of research.

The value of the work is in no small degree to be attributed to the broad interpretation and the method of treatment adopted by the author. To quote his words, he has sought not solely to present

a picture of the past, but to interpret selected historical data as illustrating phases of economic progress. To this end the topical method has been here adopted. No attempt has been made to record the minutiae of manufacturing annals, to fix the exact dates when unimportant factories were established, to describe technical processes and patents, or to enter into other details likely to confuse the purport of essential facts in their relation to general economic movements. The purpose has been to cull what is really significant from the mass of materials at hand, and so to arrange it as to show most clearly the forces that have shaped the development of American manufactures (p. 1).

In carrying out this purpose the author has not been content to rely chiefly on secondary sources but has gone back and made use of a vast mass of material gathered, not only from contemporary accounts in printed form, but also from a considerable number of sources now available only in manuscript. On this broad basis he has admirably carried out his announced purpose. The conclusions drawn are careful and well balanced, the interpretation is keen and illuminating, and the method scholarly throughout. As a result we now have available for the first time a thorough, comprehensive, and really interpretative history of our manufacturing industries down to 1860.

In treating the subject the history of manufactures has been divided into two main periods, the colonial period and that following the attainment of political independence, each period being covered sepa-

rately under topical headings. The author suggests, however, that it is possible to make further subdivisions into: the period up to about 1688, covering the pioneer years of American settlement; the period 1688-1764, during which the colonies as British possessions reached full maturity; the period 1764-1790, marked by rapidly succeeding crises in the economic life, due primarily to international political disturbances, and during which any sound development was impossible; the period 1790-1815, in many respects similar to the preceding, but at the end of which American manufacturing industry had attained a firm foundation; the period 1815-1840, when our staple manufactures began to integrate along lines of production and distribution essential to the needs of the country, though homespun industry still supplied a large part of the nation's consumption; and the period 1840-1860, when the effects of the introduction of railroads and new technical processes began to dominate and manufactures integrated out of commerce.

The headings under which the topical treatment of the two main periods is presented cover such subjects as: domestic and foreign legislation, natural resources, transportation and markets, technology and organization, wages and labor, capital, currency, and prices, and volume and distribution of manufactures. For the latter period special chapters cover the textile and metal industries.

The conclusions which the author draws in the course of this topical treatment appear, in the main, further to substantiate, to broaden, and generously to add to the opinions more commonly accepted to-day rather than to confute them. For the colonial period the author states: that the presumption becomes better defined with every new detail of fact revealed, that upon the whole the industrial development of the colonies was about where it would have been had their economic policies been governed by their own people—natural influences being vastly more important than political policies in determining that development (p. 30); that "during the last century of colonial history a growing market abroad caused primary manufactures in America to expand and multiply; and foreign competition, though it continued to limit, did not seriously encroach upon existing manufactures for home consumption" (p. 122); that "colonial experience afforded no example of either success or failure conspicuous enough to commend any element of its legislation particularly to the Federal Government or to State lawmakers of a later period" (p. 71); that "lack of currency and of a sound system of finance was more influential than lack of capital in checking the growth of colonial manufactures" (p. 124); and that "the relatively high cost of labor was the most marked symptom of the complex of economic conditions that discouraged manufactures in America" (p. 158).

For the period following 1790 the author concludes: that in spite of independence the European background to American industry played as important a part in the development of our manufactures as during the

colonial period, because of the severe economic competition following upon inventions and technical progress (p. 233); that the effect of undeveloped natural resources on production was the dominant force controlling capital, wages, and profits as they separately and collectively affected manufactures (p. 364); that the wages of unskilled labor were one-third or a half higher in America than in Great Britain, the wages of artisans were also high, but in the case of factory labor there was much less difference (p. 390-391); that "the total effect of protection was to encourage manufactures; some early outgrew the benefits of this influence; others continued to be sustained solely by its support; others were more hampered than aided by the complex of conditions with which this legislation surrounded their operations" (p. 312); and finally, that "when our country was founding its economic system, manufacturing everywhere broke away from ancient technical precedents; processes of production were revolutionized, and world forces were set at work that superseded the limited and local conditions of a single nation. To these broader influences, rather than to our great natural advantages or to the genius of our people, must be attributed much of our industrial progress" (p. 578).

In the main the conclusions of the author, backed up as they are by scholarly method and a broader basis of fact than has heretofore been available, will, it is believed, be accepted. Concerning a few of the more general statements the reviewer, however, would be inclined to raise a question. The description of the object of the mercantile system (p. 9) seems too narrow, not sufficiently recognizing its broader state-building objective. The assertion that the scarcity of colonial currency resulted from the tendency of capital to assume fixed forms and not from the lack of wealth (p. 123) is certainly doubtful. The reasons for this scarcity assigned on the following page, plus the poverty of the colonial governments, appear more satisfactory. The conclusion that: "Manufacturing is the phase of production that has modified most our national character and the constitution of society" (p. 578), will scarcely meet with general acceptance. If the term "modified" is used in the sense of bringing about changes rather than fundamentally shaping our character and society it would be less objectionable but even then the reviewer would wish to substitute the present tense for the past. However, these are chiefly questions of relative emphasis, and one feels almost ungracious in raising them at all in the case of a work which contains so much that deserves only the warmest commendation.

The volume is admirably printed with large type on good paper. It includes several maps showing the distribution of different manufactures and a useful appendix, chiefly devoted to price statistics. The index is adequate and the bibliography comprehensive. The New York state censuses, 1825, should have been listed in the latter.

CHESTER W. WRIGHT.